

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Attorney James Chang on 9 November 2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the claims:

In claim 15, after: "selecting and introducing a length of suture into at least said needle from outside of said syringe and said needle;"

insert: "wherein said step of selecting and introducing a length of suture into at least said needle comprises inserting an end of said suture into said distal end of said needle; submerging said distal end of said needle with said suture in a quantity of liquid; and drawing said length of suture and a quantity of liquid into said needle with said syringe;"

Claim 16 is cancelled.

In Claim 17, delete "A method for suturing according to Claim 16" and replace with "A method for suturing according to Claim 15".

Allowance

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance. The prior art of record fails to disclose or render obvious the combination of features as claimed. In particular, the prior art of record fails to disclose a method of suturing that includes the use of a syringe to both push the suture from the syringe barrel and pull the suture into the syringe barrel.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LINDSEY BACHMAN whose telephone number is (571)272-6208. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday 7:30 am to 5 pm, and alternating Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Todd Manahan can be reached on 571-272-4713. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3734

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/L. B./

Examiner, Art Unit 3734

/Todd E Manahan/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3734